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ABSTRACT

This document is a collection of quotations that have been used by the instructor to motivate audiences and stimulate discussion. It is suggested that classroom teachers might find these quotations useful. The quotations are organized into the following categories: Africa, Apache, Arabian proverb, Bible, China, economics, history, political science, research, and sociology. (DB)

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TEACHER USE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT TO MOTIVATE AND ENLIGHTEN PEERS AND STUDENTS

by

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Abstract

The following is a collection of thoughts, both known and unknown sources, which have been used by this author to motivate an audience, be that audience a classroom of students or a gathering of professionals, with the ultimate goals twofold: to direct attention to the speaker and to stimulate discussion.

Philosophical thoughts are actively involved in the study of the social sciences. Teachers who are using strategies which are interesting, concrete, and related to the lives of their audience, will incorporated philosophical thought. Teachers can build upon an audience's curiosity about themselves and their environment, presenting thought as dramatic reflections of personalities in the past and present who helped shaped culture and personal identities. Teachers guide their audience toward the examination of cultural periods through the discussion of both folk and professional characterization of these periods. The audience can understand the way people saw themselves, their ideas and values, their fears and dreams, and the ways they interpreted their own times.

For practical application, this collection can also be used as "warm-up" for the speech maker and as "thoughts of the day" for the social studies classroom, secondary through college levels.

AFRICA:

Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682) : We carry with us the wonders we seek without us: There is all Africa and her prodigies in us.

Graham Greene : In his book, Journey Without Maps, Greene recounts the case of the 1928 presidential election of Liberia, in which the president, Charles D.B. King, was returned to office with an officially announced majority over his opponent (Thomas J. Faulkner of the People's Party) of 600,000 votes. The total electorate at the time was less than 15,000. (Guinness)

George H.T. Kimble : The darkest thing about Africa has always been our ignorance of it.

Pliny the Elder (AD 23-79) : There is always something new out of Africa.

Senegalese proverb : Your ears are older than you are. (Refers to oral tradition)

Adlai Stevenson (1900-1965) : Africa for the Africans means Africa for the Africans and not Africa as a hunting ground for alien ambitions.

Jonathan Swift : So Geographers, in Afric maps,
With savage pictures fill their gaps,
And o'er unhabitable downs
Place elephants for want of towns.

Janet L. Stanley : . . .the image is always subjective. It reflects the imagemaker's point of view, his bias, his hidden (or not so hidden) agenda in what is portrayed and how it is depicted, although we may not always be aware that this is so.

APACHE : And now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter to the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there is no more loneliness. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. Go now to your dwelling place to enter into the days of your life together. And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

ARABIAN PROVERB: A friend is one to whom one may pour all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

BIBLE : (Ecclesiates 9:7) : Go eat your bread in gladness and drink your wine in joy. Enjoy life with the person you love all the days that have been granted you under the sun.

CHINA : We have read your manuscript with boundless delight. If we were to publish your paper it would be impossible for us to publish any work of a lower standard. And as it is unthinkable that, in the next thousand years, we shall see its equal, we are, to our regret, compelled to return your divine composition, and beg you a thousand times to overlook our short sight and timidity. (unknown source)

One tear met another tear floating down the river. Said the first tear, "I am the tear of the woman who lost her lover." The other tear replied, "And I am the tear of the woman who got him." (unknown source)

ECONOMICS :

Malcolm Forbes : When the joy of the job's gone, when it's no fun trying anymore, quit before you're fired.

Security isn't securities. It's knowing that someone cares whether you are or cease to be.

Ripley's : The income of a woman (US) compared to a man's has changed little in 46 years. . .in 1939 she earned 63¢ to his dollar -- in 1985 she made only 1¢ more.

Russian proverb : When money speaks, the truth keeps silent.

For he is not poor who has little; only he that desires much. . .and true security lies not in the things one has but in the things one can do without. (unknown source)

The grass is always greener on the other side, but, that too, needs to be mowed. (unknown source)

HISTORY :

Marie Antoinette : There is nothing new except what has been forgotten.

George Gerbner : If you can control the storytelling of a nation, you don't have to worry about who makes the laws.

Plato : Those who tell the stories also rule society.

Jonathan Swift : We have just enough religion to make hate, but not enough to make us love one another.

POLITICAL SCIENCE :

Charles de Gaulle : In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant.

Thomas Jefferson : Whenever a man has cast a longing eye on offices, a rottenness begins in his conduct.

President Macapgal : I have sat at the sumptuous tables of power, but I have not run away with the silverware. (November 25, 1961)

Malcolm X (1925-1965) : You're not supposed to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong no matter who does it or says it.

H.L. Mencken : A good politician is quite as unthinkable as an honest burglar.

Tony Morrison : ...the function of freedom is to free somebody else.

Changampugha Krishna Pillai (Malaysia) : A sincere heart in an insincere world is the reason of my failure.

FDR : The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

A politician is someone who takes money from the rich and votes from the poor and promises each protection from the other. (unknown source)

How come that in the "underdeveloped countries" they sleep in open huts, while in the "developed countries" we have to bolt our doors and grate our windows? (unknown source)

It would be useless to bomb Washington. If you destroy one building, they already have two other buildings completely staffed with people doing exactly the same thing. (unknown source)

In America, our ears are very young. To survive in today's global environment, we need to hear voices other than our own. If you listen closely, you might hear them right across the street. (unknown source)

Show the world. Strive not to walk as your brother walks, nor talk as your leader talks, nor labor as do the mediocre. Never do as another. Never imitate. For how do you know that you may not imitate evil; and he who imitates evil always goes beyond the example set, while he who imitates what is good always falls short. Imitate no one. Be yourself. (unknown source)

Wouldn't you like to live in a world where no one wants to be rich and no one is poor? (unknown source)

RESEARCH :

Dr. Wayne Dyer (The Sky's the Limit) : If all people are unique, and if they are constantly changing each and every day, then all one can say about any social-research finding is that it applied to that group of people on that given day, and given the propensity of humans to be different and to change, then it is unlikely that one would get the same results if one were to repeat the study.

SOCIOLOGY :

Addison : The grand essentials
to happiness are
something to do. . .
something to love. . .
and something to hope for.

Dr. Smiley Blanton : . . .one of the most helpless and hopeless diseases known to man -- "if only".

P.G. Boyle (Planning Better Programs) : Most human beings need a feeling that they are accomplishing something worthwhile.

Dr. Preston Bradley (Pastor-emeritus of Peoples Church of Chicago) : 1) Does the course of action you plan to follow seem logical and reasonable? Never mind what anyone else has to say. Does it make sense to you? If it does, it is probably right. 2) Does it pass the test of sportsmanship? In other words, if everyone followed this same course of action, would the results be beneficial for all? 3) Where will your plan of action lead? How will it affect others? What will it do to you? 4) Will you think well of yourself when you look back at what you have done? 5) Try to separate yourself from the problem. Pretend, for one moment, it is the problem of the person you most admire. Ask yourself how that person would handle it. 6) Hold up the final decision to glaring light of publicity. Would you want your family and friends to know what you have done? The decisions we make in the hope that no one will find out are usually wrong.

Kenneth H. Cooper, MD : Whether you live one day longer is really not the ultimate goal. What is important is the quality of yourlife -- a life that is happy, healthy, and productive.

Dr. Denzil Edge (University of Louisville) : It is rather ironic that professionals who individualize for children

often do not individualize for parents. Often programs are designed with a particular philosophy in mind such as behavior management or effectiveness training and offered to all parents rather than analyzing specific needs the parents may have.

Emerson (US essayist, 1803-82) : Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is to you.

Bobby McFerrin (song) : Here's a little song I wrote/You might want to sing it note for note/Don't worry,be happy/ In every life we have some trouble/When you worry you make it double/Don't worry, be happy/Ain't got no place to lay your head?/Somebody came and took you bed?/Don't worry, be happy/ The landlord says your rent is late/He may have to litigate/ Don't worry, be happy/I give you my phone -- when you worry, call me, I make you happy/Don't worry, be happy/Cause when you worry your face will frown/and that will bring everybody down so/Don't worry, be happy.

Jane Harmon : Four-year old looking in bookstore window: "What are those, Mommy?" Mommy: "Those are called books, honey. That's what they make the movies on tv from."

Arthur J. Hilly (Hilly and Hilly Associates Inc.) : The decision, of course, is up to you but you might keep in mind that like many other decisions in life, it is usually easier to obtain forgiveness than to obtain permission.

Homer : There is nothing more admirable than when two people who see eye to eye keep house as husband and wife, confounding their enemies and delighting their friends, as they themselves know best.

Jesse Jackson (Ebony, August 1978) : We are behind in a race and the only way to catch up is to run faster. If the New Generation is to close the gap and catch up, they must do so by disciplining their appetites, engaging in ethical conduct and developing their minds. A steady diet of violence, vandalism, drugs, irresponsible sexual conduct, alcohol and tv addiction has bred a passive, alienated, and superficial generation. The challenge is to close the gap, and decadence diverts one from the goal of catching up.

Morally weak people not only inhibit their own personal growth but finally contribute to the politics of decadence. . . A generation of people lacking the moral and physical stamina necessary to fight a protracted civilizational crisis is dangerous to itself, its neighbors and to future generations. We need a sober, sane, disciplined army to catch up.

Helen Keller : Life is either daring adventure or nothing.

Lynn L. (Ann Landers) : All of us get to feeling too mighty and too important at times. Here is a humbling truth that should help keep things in proper perspective: Man, despite his pretensions, sophistication and myriad accomplishments, owes his existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.

Samuel Johnson : Go into the street, and give one man a lecture on morality, and another a shilling, and see which will respect you most.

Montaigne (French essayist, 1533-92) : We are all made up fragments, so shapelessly and strangely assembled that every moment, every piece plays its own game. And there is as much difference between us and ourselves as between us and

others.

Judee A. Pouncey : If it's to be, it's up to me!

Dr. William Nolen (Crisis Time! Love, Marriage and the Male at Mid-Life) : The man resists admitting that there's anything the matter with him. If you tell a woman what's the matter with her, she will do what she has to do to get better. But a man will lie to you about his symptoms because he doesn't want to admit there's anything the matter with him.

J.A.R. (Ann Landers) : Human males have been having sex with just about any animal that would hold still long enough, or could be beaten into submission.

As you said, animal genes and human genes will not "mix" -- and it's a good thing. If they did, half the world population would consist of half goat, half fish, half horse, half cow, half pig, half dog, and probably half fencepost.

Carl Sagan : I look into my daughter's eyes and ask myself what kind of future we are preparing for our children. We have offered them visions of a future in which -- unable to read, to think, to invent, to compete, to make things work, to anticipate events -- our nation sinks into lethargy and economic decay; in which ignorance and greed conspire to destroy the air, the water, the soil and the climate; in which we permit a nuclear holocaust.

Our children long for realistic maps of a future they (and we) can be proud of. Where are the cartographers of human purpose?

Tampa Tribune (May 18, 1987) : Ashley died in 1873 and shortly thereafter his black servant Nancy also died and was buried

next to him.

John Jackson, who was executor of Ashley's estate, erected the tombstone that reads, "Here lie William Ashley and Nancy Ashley, Master and Servant; faithful to each other in that relation in life, in death they are not separated. Strangers consider and be wise -- in the grave all human distinctions of race or color mingle together in one common dust."

J. London and R. Wenkert : . . .adult teachers and administrators have a responsibility to broaden the concerns of participants so as to encourage a deeper commitment to liberalizing educational experiences. One has a responsibility to individuals and the society to help them get what they need to fully realize their potential.

Zhang Xianliang : A woman is the most loveable thing on earth, but there is something that is more important. Women will never possess the men they have created.

I would never again be vulnerable to that humiliation and pain, but I would also never again know such happiness.

If you want to be at peace, then you must abandon yourself to the world. You must not fight it or try to control it. You must throw yourself into the world as it is created day by day: in that creation is the Way.

Civilized lies not in directing, but in explaining a man's behaviour.

Choose to love. . .rather than hate.

Choose to laugh. . .rather than cry.

Choose to create. . .rather than destroy.

Choose to persevere. . .rather than quit.

Choose to praise. . .rather than gossip.

Choose to heal. . .rather than wound.

Choose to give. . .rather than steal.

Choose to act. . .rather than procrastinate.

Choose to grow. . .rather than rot.

Choose to pray. . .rather than curse.

Choose to live. . .rather than die. (unknown source)

Comes the Dawn

After awhile you learn the subtle difference
Between holding a hand and chaining a soul,
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning
And company doesn't mean security,
And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts
And presents aren't promises,
And you begin to accept your defeats
With your head up and your eyes open,
With the grace of a woman, not the grief of a child,
And learn to build all your roads
On today because tomorrow's ground
Is too uncertain for plans, and futures have
A way of falling down in mid-flight.
After awhile you learn that even sunshine
Burns if you get too much.
So plant your own garden and decorate

Your own soul, instead of waiting
For someone to bring you flowers.
And you learn that you really can endure. . .
That you really are strong
And you really do have worth.
And you learn and learn. . .
With every goodbye you learn. (unknown source)

Dining partners, regardless of gender, social standing, or the years they've lived, should be chosen for their ability to eat -- and drink! -- with the right mixture of abandon and restraint.

They should be able, no, eager, to sit for hours -- three, four, six -- over a meal of soup and wine and cheese, as well as one of 20 fabulous courses.

Then, with good friends of such attributes, and good food on the board, and good wine in the pitcher, we may well ask, When shall we live if not now? (unknown source)

"Do you know what the really big word is, Helen?" Elsa asks. "I had it all wrong. Like most people, I suppose I used to think it was 'love'. ". . .But there's an even bigger one. 'Trust'." (unknown source)

Today was fine. I didn't let anything bother me. And tomorrow will be even better! (unknown source)

Why should men despair that some are granted more than their allotted three score and ten years? It is better to live one year fully than to vegetate for fifty years. (unknown source)